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Steve Leski



July 15, 2014

Mike Sutton, President
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Dear Mr. Sutton,

I'm writing to express opposition to the Animal Legal Defense Fund's petition to ban private ownership of certain breeds of cats deemed as hybrids. The ALDF's petition is too general in its intent. It seeks to reclassify these cats in the same category as exotic wild animals. The cats cited are not wild animals, nor are they some new unique species. They are considered domestic animals per the USDA's legal definition as they have domestic lineage.

The proponents of this action are making many false and unsubstantiated claims. These cats are not burdening shelters, and several private rescue organizations have adoption waiting lists longer than they can satisfy. They are not contributing to feral cat populations as most have been spayed or neutered. In fact, a simple remedy to this concern could be a regulation requiring breeders to sterilize animals sold into private ownership. Please consider the facts and your own experience in this matter and not the exaggerated claims made by the petitioners.

This action would give law enforcement the authority to confiscate family pets regardless if they are abused, neglected or otherwise mismanaged. I'm sure that you would **not** prefer directing resources to force citizens to surrender their beloved pets, restraining angry adults, causing children to cry, knowing that those animals would likely be euthanized. Please don't side with a small group of well funded zealots with the ability to bully your community using legal instruments not easily accessible to us.

If regulation is needed, there are less destructive and more common-sense requirements that may be imposed. I ask you to please handle this action in a way that is sensitive to those of us in the community you serve that are very attached to our pets.

Sincerely yours,

Steve Leski